

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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2013 Yukon River Summer Salmon Fishery News Release # 9

Summer Announcement # 8, Subdistricts 5-A, 5-B, and 5-C Subsistence Fishing Schedules

Districts Affected: Upper Yukon Area

In preparation for another potentially poor Yukon River Chinook salmon run, subsistence fishermen are strongly encouraged to voluntarily reduce their Chinook salmon harvest to not exceed 25% of their average annual harvest to help ensure adequate escapement. For example, a family that normally harvests 40 Chinook salmon should consider taking only 10 this year. Fishermen should consider shifting harvest to other salmon species, where possible, to supplement a reduced Chinook salmon harvest.

Conservative management actions have been implemented in accordance with the preseason management plan outlined in the 2013 Yukon River Salmon Fisheries Outlook and the subsistence salmon fishing schedule has been initiated in District 1 through Subdistrict 4-A. However, adjustments to the subsistence schedules in these districts are being made to allow for more fishing opportunity in response to the late break up. Consistent with these changes, implementation of the subsistence schedule in Subdistricts 5-A, 5-B, and 5-C is being delayed. As the schedule is initiated, gillnets will be restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh size in each district including District 5.

Subsistence fishing for all species is open 7 days per week, 24 hours a day in Subdistricts 5-A, 5-B, and 5-C until the subsistence salmon fishing schedule goes into effect on Tuesday, June 25.

Subdistricts 5-A, 5-B, & 5-C (from Illinois Creek upstream to regulatory markers 2 miles downstream of Waldron Creek): This area includes the communities of Tanana and Rampart as well as the area near the Yukon River Bridge.

Effective 6:00 p.m. Tuesday, June 25, subsistence salmon fishing will consist of two 48-hour periods each week, from 6:00 p.m. Tuesdays until 6:00 p.m. Thursdays and from 6:00 p.m. Fridays until 6:00 p.m. Sundays, with gillnets restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh size to conserve Chinook salmon.

Subdistrict 5-D (from 2 miles downstream of Waldron Creek to the U.S./Canada border): This area includes the communities of Stevens Village, Beaver, Fort Yukon, Circle, and Eagle. Subsistence salmon fishing is currently open 7 days per week, 24 hours a day and fishermen may use gillnets with a mesh size of 7.5 inches or smaller.

The department will notify fishermen in Subdistrict 5-D by June 27 concerning when gillnets will be restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh size to conserve Chinook salmon.

Subsistence fishermen are reminded that a fishing permit is required to fish for all species in the portion of Subdistrict 5-C and 5-D from the western most tip of Garnet Island upstream to the Dall River, and from the upstream mouth of 22-Mile Slough to the US/Canada Border. Subsistence fishermen outside of the permit area are encouraged to fill out their subsistence salmon catch calendars. Calendars are available from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in Fairbanks.

During subsistence salmon fishing closures, fish wheels may not be operated and gillnets with a mesh size greater than four inches and a length greater than 60 feet must be removed from the water.

The subsistence fishing schedule and recorded fishery announcements will be available 24 hours a day at 1-866-479-7387 (toll free outside of Fairbanks); in Fairbanks, call (907) 459-7387.

If you have any questions regarding this report, please call the ADFG office in Fairbanks at 459-7274 or in Emmonak at 949-1320. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service can be contacted in Fairbanks at 456-0418 or in Emmonak at 949-1798.

This has been an announcement by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

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